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Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 6 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended.

In item 5 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1 - 6 were rejected as allegedly being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. More specifically, it was alleged in the Office Action that the claims recite that the participants interact with the central computer in order to carry out processes, but do not make clear which element is carrying out processes or what the processing is. However, Applicants' believe that the claims are not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. More particularly, it would be clearly understood from the claims that the participants and the central computer interact to perform processes, among other limitations. Thus, processes can be performed based on the interaction between the two devices, and not necessarily solely by one device or the other. For example, "participants" are defined in the specification of the instant application, on page 1, lines 15 - 17, which states:

The circuit boards which carry out the functions of the control system will be referred to as "participants" in the following text. [emphasis added by Applicants]

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Additionally, it is understood in this art that the participant carries out "specific tasks". See for example, page 1 of instant application, lines 17 - 22, which state:

In order to define a participant in a control system, the participant being specified to perform specific tasks, it is known to construct the participant in a neutral manner and only to determine the actual purpose or intention of the participant through the use of a measure on site. [emphasis added by Applicants]

As such, the participant performs specific tasks. Thus, as stated above, processes are performed through the interaction of the devices, and not necessarily solely by any one participant of the plurality of participants, or solely by the central computer, which interacts with a plurality of participants, each performing a specific task. Such would be understood by a person of skill in this art, reading the instant application.

Further, Applicants' claims require the control system, of which the participants and the central computer are part, to be for controlling a printing machine. A person of ordinary skill in this art would understand what processes are performed, under control, in a printing machine. Some of these processes are set out, for example, on page 5 of the instant application, line 21 - page 6, line 3, which states:

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In particular in cases in which a number of participants satisfy tasks with different priorities on a printing machine, for example the main drive of the machine and an auxiliary drive for the varnishing unit, in the event of failure of the participant for the main drive, a replacement with the participant for the auxiliary drive can be carried out by the printer and the machine continues to be usable in emergency operations. [emphasis added by Applicants]

As such, Applicants believe that it is very clear what is meant by the limitation in Applicants' claims stating "the neutral participants interacting with said central computer in order to carry out processes", and that such would be understood by a person of ordinary skill in this art. As such, Applicants' respectfully request the present 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of the claims to be withdrawn.

It is accordingly believed that the claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In item 6 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1 - 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0023187 to Chang et al ("CHANG").

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections.

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First, the **CHANG** reference fails to teach or suggest, and in fact teaches away from, among other limitations of Applicants' claims, Applicants' claimed galvanic link that permits transposition of parts. As stated in the response to the previous Office Action, The **CHANG** reference discloses a CPU to which different memory modules are connected. The modules are 168-pin modules and 184-pin modules. The exchangeability is only provided in the 168-pin modules where caution must be exercised as to which 168 pins are plugged into the slot. It appears as though a mechanical lock is necessary in **CHANG** so as to avoid a transposition. If one looks at Figs. 5a and 5b of **CHANG**, one can recognize that the pins are left-aligned to 240, 250, 260, 270. Thus, a mechanical alignment (adjustment) is necessary.

In contrast, in accordance with the present invention, a transposition of all of the participants is possible, so that each participant can be plugged at each position along the set of lines (see page 5, line 19 et seq. of the instant application). An advantage of the present invention in this regard is that, from an economic point of view, all participants are manufactured the same and high costs are not incurred with regard to the management of replacement parts. This makes it possible for a service technician to repair a machine with a small number of replacement parts.

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As such, the teaching of **CHANG** teaches away from Applicants' claimed invention including Applicants' particularly claimed galvanic link, and thus, are not modifiable in the manner suggested in the Office Action.

Further, Applicants' claims 1 and 4 have been amended to recite, among other limitations:

at least one component included in the participant determining the defined address of the participant

This amendment to claims 1 and 4 is supported by the specification of the instant application, for example, on page 7 of the instant application, lines 15 - 18, which states:

The figure shows a participant 1 which, in the form of a populated circuit board, a so-called flat subassembly or flat module, includes a plurality of components 5, 6 and 7 combined into groups. [emphasis added by Applicants]

See also, for example, page 8 of the instant application, lines 13 - 16, which states:

These components 7 are specified to determine the defined address of the participant 1 and therefore to follow only instructions which are carried out under the address intended for it. As already mentioned, the participant 1 is kept neutral and is only defined or set by the address interrogation, which is defined here in the example by the plug 4'. [emphasis added by Applicants]

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See also, for example, the sole figure of the instant application, items 5, 6 and 7.

CHANG discloses a personal computer system capable of supporting different types of memory modules, including at least synchronous dynamic random access memory (SDRAM) and double-data-rate dynamic random access memory (DDR DRAM). See, for example, paragraph [0003] of CHANG.

DDR DRAM, included in the invention of CHANG, requires a voltage regulator and various pull-up resistors. See, for example, the first sentence of paragraph [0054] of CHANG. This makes it clear that, in CHANG, it matters in which location (memory slot 240-270 of Fig. 2 of CHANG) the corresponding memory modules are put. This is further shown in paragraph [0051] of CHANG, which states, in part:

Note that when DDR DRAM is used in this invention, a matching terminal circuit module 700 must be used. The terminal circuit module 700 must be positioned in one of the memory module slots 240-270 whose distance, compared with the DDR DRAM memory modules, must be firthest [sic] from CPU 220. [emphasis added by Applicants]

As such, in CHANG, each memory module cannot simply be placed into the slots 240 - 270 of CHANG. Rather, because of the rules/configuration required by CHANG, it is not permitted to mix up the slots of CHANG and, in an

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unrestricted manner, transfer the functions onto the different slots. Additionally, **CHANG** has the disadvantage of the possibility of a mix-up occurring, when using different memory modules.

In accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, the mix-up of the slots is irrelevant. In Applicants' claimed invention, each slot defines its plugged-on participant so that the latter takes on that task which is assigned to the slot (i.e., "said reserved plug contacts being provided with at least one galvanic link, and said at least one galvanic link being detected and interpreted by a participant"). Further, Applicants' claimed invention requires that the participant interprets, via the slot, its own address, thus permitting the participant to only receive from the bus the data meant for it. The **CHANG** reference fails to teach or suggest, among other limitations of Applicants' claims at least one component included in the participant determining the defined address of the participant. Rather, the memory modules used in **CHANG** are described or read out by the control chipset 220 present at the outside.

For the above reasons, among others, Applicants' claims are believed to be patentable over **CHANG**.

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It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 1 and 4. Claims 1 and 4 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 4.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 6 are solicited.

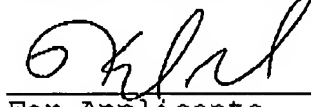
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested, as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemmer LLP, No. 12-1099.

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Respectfully submitted,



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